

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Substitute Specification submitted on February 9, 2004 as follows:

Page 4, paragraph containing amendment to lines 4 and 5

Fig. 1D shows the anchor cloth with a mounted pocket sling, together with cutting away of the corner of the pocketed sling ~~and folding of the corner of the pocketed sling for formation of the pocketed sling structure.~~

Page 4, paragraph containing amendments to lines 14 and 15

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing another embodiment of the invention, ~~in final stages of construction,~~ with anchor pocket sling having extended cuffed pockets, with cutaway to expose underlying shell.

Page 5, paragraph containing amendment to line 10

Fig. 3B is a cross-sectional view of the sling ~~shown~~ taken along line 3B-3B in Fig. 3.

Pages 7-8, paragraph containing amendment to page 7, line 20

Referring to Figs. 1A-1H, a reusable diaper in accordance with one embodiment of the invention, designated generally by numeral 10, comprises a waterproof or water-resistant (breathable type fabric) diaper shell (outer shell) 12 within which is retained a fluid containment pocket 50, positioned to be located about the groin when worn by an infant or adult. Referring to Fig. 1A, the diaper is formed of three layers; a waterproof or water-resistant outer shell 12, an inner

liner 16 generally soft to the touch and optionally of fluid absorbent fabric, and a layer forming a fluid containment pocket, or anchored pocketed-sling, 50, of water-resistant or waterproof material 13. The two outer layers 12 and 16 of the diaper ~~shell~~ are generally of the same shape, and the anchor cloth 16 is on the inside of, and aligned with, the outer shell 12. This liner 16 forms an attachment mechanism at a stitch line 17 to anchor the pocketed sling 50 to shell 12. The outer shell 12 and its inner liner 16 are joined at the leg hole by a leg elastic strip 18, which convolutes the two layers, stitched at line 20 and holds the two layers together to form a leg hole 22. The inner pocketed sling is positioned and attached (stitched) centrally to the inner liner 16 only. Hence, the stitching does not pierce shell 12.

Page 8, paragraph containing amendment to line 13

~~Stitch~~ Seam line 42, which may be replaced by heat sealing, assembles the corners of the pocket. This assembly may also be accomplished by folding the corners 21 inward to the reverse side, and then stitching or sealing to establish an inside seam.

Page 9, paragraph containing amendment to lines 6 and 7

Figs. 1C-1H show the construction method by which three layers of fabric ~~come together to form a leak proof undergarment interior.~~ In Fig. 1C, ~~a piece of anchor cloth 16 is positioned over outer shell 12, similarly configured, as a first step~~ take shape by folding the corners 21 at what would be edges 42A and then seaming, i.e., the corners 21 are not removed in the manufacture of anchored pocket 50. In Fig. 1D, stitch line 17 pierces the cloth 16 in a rectangular pattern and attaches to hold pocket 50 to its anchor cloth now stitched centrally. The edges or sides of the material 13 take shape into a pocket-shape 50 as corners 21 are removed, and the sides become

seamed at edge 42A by seam line 42, Fig. 1. The pocket may alternatively take shape by folding the corners 21 at seam edges 42A, as shown by the arrows, and then seamed; the folded corners 21 are not removed.

Page 9, paragraph containing amendment to line 18

In Fig. 1E, bulk is advantageously reduced in the garment by removing the triangular corners 21 shown in Fig. 1D. In Figure 1F, an additional piece of fabric at 50B is optionally added at stitch line 17A (for either waterproof or absorbing purpose) at pocket 50 as it overlays the ~~stitch~~ seam line 17 of the primary pocket 50.

Page 10, paragraph containing amendments to lines 9, 13-14 and 16-17

Refer now to Fig. 2, depicting another embodiment of the invention, in which the outer shell is the same, but sling configuration different compared to the embodiment of Fig. 1. In Fig. 2, diaper 10 is again composed of three layers; outer layer 12 of water-resistant material, inner layer 16 that is not water-resistant and an inner fabric 72 cuffed to form pocketed sling 68 of water-resistant material. ~~The fabric 72 at the ends of the rectangular pocketed sling are folded to form 68 has folded fabric 72 at end~~ cuffs 60 and 61, the rear end cuff 60 being formed by folding outer perimeter edge 80 of fabric 72 inward, and the two raw edges of the fold inserted into elastic strip 62. Elastic strip 62 extends longitudinally to frontal cuff 61, where a frontal pocket is formed from the cuff 61 as the raw edges 61B and 71A are joined ~~of the cuff and fabric 72 join at seam line 71 as depicted (in an intermediate step of construction, prior to sealing)~~. Cuff pocket 60 is formed in the rear portion of the diaper by adjoining folded edges within the elastic, as compared to frontal cuff pocket 61 where elastic 62 covers edges 61B and 71A, which edges

~~are joined 71 and together they are joined to folded edge 61B~~ at seam line 71 on the interior side of the formed cuff pocket. Optionally, the elastic may be omitted on underside at 71 as finished edge is formed by seam line 71 rather than elastic 62. The rear cuff outer corner may be stitched down at stitch line 62A. The entire pocketed-sling 68 is attached to anchor cloth 16 in the central portion of diaper 10 at stitch line 70, which forms a stabilizing rectangular attachment of cuffed pocketed-sling 68 to its anchor cloth 16. Leg hole 22 and fasteners 24 and 26 are identical to those depicted in Fig. 1.

Page 10, paragraph containing amendment to line 9 (previously amended 12/19/03)

Referring to Fig. 2A, which is a cross-sectional view of pocket 68, outer layer 12 is connected to inner layer 16 at elastic trim 18, and held fast by zig-zag or straight stitching at 20. Fabric sidewall 72 is terminated at strip 62. As depicted in Fig. 2, pocket 60 is formed as the sidewall of fabric 72 of pocket 68 bends ~~at outer edge 80~~ along stitch line 70.

Page 11, paragraph containing amendment to line 17

In Fig. 2E, the cuff is reversed and seam ~~61~~ 71 is made flush with the fabric raw edges, and elastic is now on the inside of pocket 68. Optionally, a tacking 62A can be added to hold elastic down at cuff 60. The formed pocket 68 adjoined to cloth 16, overlies outer shell fabric 12, and is ready for assembly as a garment of protective underwear.

Page 12, paragraph containing amendment to lines 5 and 8

In another embodiment of the invention, depicted in Fig. 3, diaper 10 is composed of two layers, with liner 16 and shell 12 connected at elastic strip 18 by stitching 20. The absorbing

pocketed-sling 50 of Fig. 1 is detachable through an optional fastener material, such as Velcro® in the form of a rectangular sewn piece 86 sewn at stitch line 82, and/or alternatively as snaps 120. In Fig. 3B, the Velcro® fastener is mounted at line 82 on anchor cloth 16; in Fig. 3A, the pocketed sling 50 is shown detached from its anchor cloth to expose the underlying attachment of Velcro® strips 84 attached to the sling at stitching 66, and/or alternative snaps 121.

Pages 12-13, paragraph containing amendment to page 13, line 6

In another embodiment, depicted in Fig. 4, diaper 10 is composed of two layers of fabric: an inner layer overlying a shell 12. A pocketed sling device similar but not identical to the types shown in Figs. 1-3, is now anchored to the liner cloth 16 with strips of fabric 64A, 66A, 67A, positioned on one side of the anchor cloth 16, and on the opposite side anchor strips 64B, 66B and 67B are positioned to hold and stabilize the pocket. In this figure, the anchor strips are each tacked to the anchor cloth 16; 64A is tacked at 62C, 66A at 66C, 67A at 67C, 64B at 64C, 66B at 66C and 67B at 67C. As the first step in the stabilization of pocketed sling 68, Fig. 4A shows the tacking on the anchor cloth 16, and in Fig. 4B the strips each bend inward into the elastic strip 62 as the pocket is formed. Just as in Fig. 2, elastic strip 62 is exposed at cuff 60, but not at cuff 61. Hence, strips 64A and 64B are inserted in the elastic 62 at one end and at the opposite end are inserted in the seam ~~64B~~ 71 with elastic 62 on the underside of cuff 61, holding the seam together.

Page 14, paragraph containing amendment to lines 15-17

In Fig. 5A, the shape of pocket 500 is formed as sides 104A and 104B are bent inward and joined at seam 104. Elastic strip 400 is applied to fit the groin of the wearer as pocket 500

elasticizes around the pubic area. The opposite end of the pocket 500 is folded and stitched at lines 403 and 404, preferably covered by an elastic strip 403a that improves fit and water resistance. In Fig. 5B, the cuff 160 is joined to the end of pocket 500, at overlock stitch line 162. Folded walls 104A and 104B are seamed at 104, creating a top and under surface of the pocket now both held together by overlock stitching ~~162~~ 163. Pocket 401 of Fig. 5 established under and longitudinally displaced from stitches 403, ~~409~~ 404 retains one end of an optional absorbent pad 19, as shown. The opposite end of the pad is retained by the pocket 500 at cuff 160. The panty will be seamed at 102, and is now ready for application of elastic to the outer edge of the protective underwear.

Pages 14-15, paragraph containing amendment to page 15, lines 7, 8, 13 and 15

Figure 6, another embodiment of similar structure to Figure 5, incorporates the same elements of structural formation; outermost surface layers 16A forming as both a panty and anchor cloth for a pocketed sling, the same elastic 5 for finishing outer waist portions of the garment, and side seams 102, that, when seamed form protective panty 11. The anchored pocket of Figure 6 carries central connecting pieces 160 and 160A respectively at frontal and rear portions, now stitched centrally to 16A at stitch lines 162' and 163A. Anchor strips 620 are inserted in both sides of leg hole, elastic 18 at central portion of leg hole elastic 18 and then connected, or inserted in, elastic of pocket elastic ~~40~~ 400A. Manufacturing of garment strips 620 may be in reverse order of assembly by first being inserted in pocket elastic ~~40~~ 400A and then attached to central portion of the panty (stitched over top of elastic 18). These connecting pieces 620 anchor the pocket 502 without piercing the fluid absorbing or containing area of pocket 502. The connecting pieces suspend the pocket 502 centrally at opposite ends. The pocket 502 is connected at opposite ends by ~~overlock stitching~~ seams 104 and 108. Elastic 18 finishes the leg

hole. Elastic 400A terminates within seam 104, and the outermost edges of the pocket is finished by overlock stitch 163' and 162A ~~162'~~.

Pages 14-15, paragraph containing amendment to page 14, line 21

In Figure 7, there is yet another embodiment of an anchored pocket sling. This embodiment 100 is identical to Figure 1 with the exception that the pocketed structure is attached, suspended below the anchor cloth; therefore, the pocket 50 resides between the shell 12 and anchor cloth 16.

Page 16, paragraph containing amendment to line 12

On the underside, dotted lines represent the now suspended and floating pocket, 50, of same structure as pocket 50 of Figure 1. It is a hidden pocket, suspend by the joining of perimeter edge of material 13 to anchor cloth 16A at elastic 40. Seam lines ~~Side seams~~ 42 are joined as in Figure 1, but no stitch line 17 is necessary in this embodiment as the base of the pocket floats. This feature further enhances the waterproof property of the pocket.

Page 16, paragraph containing amendment to lines 17

In Figure 7A, pocket 50 is suspended between anchor cloth 16A and shell 12A. Elastic 40 holds the edges of the pocket and anchor cloth ~~perimeter edge with anchor cloth circular edge~~ 43.

Pages 16-17, paragraph containing amendment to page 17, line 1

In Figure 8 the submerged pocket structure of Figure 7 is applied to a male boxer short 22. The submerged pocket 50 includes the principles of the invention disclosed in Figure 6 including

submerged pocket 50, with seam lines ~~seamed corners~~ 42, suspended between anchor cloth 16A and waterproof piece 12A held on opposite sides by elastic 18. The addition to this variation of the invention is anchor strip 52 which stabilizes the protective sling in the rear portion of boxer short 22. Boxer short 22 has an elastic waist 110 and a sling device with submerged pocket 50 held to central frontal interior portion of boxer pant 22 at stitching 118.

Page 17, paragraph containing amendment to 11

In Figure 9, the submerged pocket of Figures 6, 7 and 8 is the same except, as shown, as a belted undergarment 14, where all principles of the invention are applied, and for fastening to the wearer, belt 106 with button 114 is coupled with buttonhole 104. Buttonhole 104 pierces with stitching both shell 12A and anchor cloth 16A. Folded edge 12B finishes the ends ~~part~~ of the undergarment